

Sarah Murphy AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl a Llesiant
Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1405
Ein cyf/Our ref SM/10341/24

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

petitions@senedd.wales

27 January 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Petition P-06-1405 We want and need a Mental Health unit for men in North Wales with beds

Thank you for your letter of 15 November regarding the above petition and seeking further information about the provision of 24/7 acute mental health support in Wales.

Since my predecessor wrote to you in March, we have continued to develop our approach to acute mental health support, which includes the 111 press 2 service which has now supported more than 130,000 people.

As well as enhancing the availability of support, it is vital that we continue to increase awareness, understanding, and compassion within services and society in general so people feel confident to reach out in times of need without fear of stigma and judgement.

In 2023/24, further male-focused work continued with targeted workshops being held by the NHS Executive as well as working with male mental health support groups across Wales, and a male suicide webinar being held. A further national conference for suicide and self-harm in Wales will take place in March 2025, with the aim of having an aspect of that event dedicated to issues relating to male suicide.

Health boards also provide a range of services to support acute mental health issues, these include in-patient provision, crisis resolution and home treatment teams, and psychiatric liaison services for those who present in urgent and emergency departments. Health boards also provide designated places of safety for individuals detained by the police under Section 135 or Section 136 of the Mental Health Act.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Health boards also provide a range of sanctuary services for people at risk of mental health crisis, many of which are delivered by our third sector partners. Health Boards are also piloting similar provision for young people and I've included a link to the project in Swansea/Neath and Port Talbot for more information: [NWJCC Commissioned Sanctuary for Children and Young People Officially Opens - NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee](#)

We are also continuing our significant programme of work to improve mental health services, which includes an investment of more than £2m in the NHS Executive to drive improvements in access and quality. This includes a focus on improving support for adults through the Adult mental health clinical network and the development of an Acute and Crisis Care (ACC) workstream. The ACC workstream commenced in September and had a vision to develop a single acute and crisis care model for Wales. Its role is to:

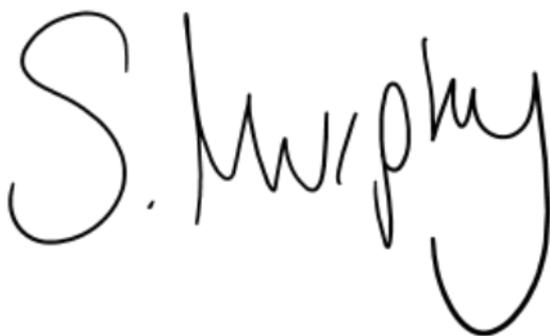
- Support the existing regional groups in their development and improvement of their local acute and crisis services,
- Lead a stocktake of existing acute and crisis service across Wales,
- Design the optimal acute and crisis care pathway based on best available evidence,
- Oversee the implementation of the new pathway across Wales

This is at its early stages but further updates to this work will become available [here](#)

Whilst we continue to develop our specialist mental health services, our aim is to prevent escalation and we are taking a cross-Government approach to do this, for instance with our whole system approach in schools.

The work of the Strategic Programme for Mental Health is being informed by the recent consultations in relation to the development of the [mental health and wellbeing strategy](#) and [suicide and self-harm prevention strategy](#). These documents also provide clarity on our priorities for the new strategies, which includes a strong focus on prevention and ensuring a 'no wrong door' approach to accessing appropriate support. The consultation summaries are also available on these links. Officials are currently working on the final strategies and associated delivery plans, with a view to publishing in the new year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'S' and a long, sweeping underline.

Sarah Murphy AS/MS

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